

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 MC-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 /075 W
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 383
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SW, AU
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF SWEDISH VIGGEN TO AUSTRIA

1. SPECULATION HAS APPEARED IN SWEDISH PRESS THAT A SALE OF SWEDEN'S FIGHTER PLANE, THE VIGGEN, TO THE AUSTRIAN AIR FORCE MAY BE IN THE OFFING. BOTH MAJOR STOCKHOLM PAPERS REPORT APRIL 20 THAT AUSTRIA IS NOW TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER TO BUY THE VIGGEN JA 37 OR THE ISRAELI KFIR C2, AFTER HAVING EXCLUDED THE FRENCH MIRAGE F-1C AND AN AMERICAN COMPETITOR (EITHER THE F-5 OR THE F-16; REPORTS ARE UNCLEAR) FROM CONSIDERATION. IMPETUS FOR THE STORIES IS REPORT RECENTLY PRESENTED BY AUSTRIAN MILITARY EXPERTS WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS CLEARLY PREFERRING THE VIGGEN OVER THE KFIR.

2. SOME QUARTERS INVOLVED IN THE DECISION ARE REPORTEDLY IN FAVOR OF PURCHASING THE KFIR, BOTH BECAUSE IT IS CHEAPER AND BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS HAVE OFFERED TO BUY AUSTRIAN GOODS EQUAL TO THE TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE. SWEDEN HAS APPARENTLY OFFERED COMPENSATORY ORDERS FOR ONLY 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL SUM, WHICH FOR 24 PLANES WOULD

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BE OVER 1.125 BILLION KRONER (ROUGHLY \$250 MILLION) AS OPPOSED TO A REPORTED COST OF ABOUT \$180 MILLION FOR THE ISRAELI PLANES. PRESS ACCOUNTS NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT STRONG POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS WOULD ARISE FROM A DECISION TO BUY THE KFIR, AND THAT AUSTRIA COULD EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE HOSTILE REACTION FROM THE ARAB STATES.

3. COMMENT: SWEDEN WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE TREMENDOUSLY PLEASED TO MAKE SUCH A SALE, AND A DEAL BETWEEN THE TWO NEUTRALS WOULD HAVE APPARENT ADVANTAGES FOR BOTH PARTIES. SUCH A SALE FOR SWEDEN, WHICH HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SELL THE EXPENSIVE VIGGEN THUS FAR, HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF HOPEFUL SPECULATION FOR SOME TIME. HIGH-RANKING MILITARY SOURCES HERE, HOWEVER, INFORM US THAT, IMPRESSION OF AN IMMINENT DECISION CONVEYED BY THE PRESS NOTWITHSTANDING, THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE AUSTRIAN DECISION WILL BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY SALES, VIGGEN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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